

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 199099

EXDIS FOR AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 09014 (USDEL SECRETARY IN JERUSALEM)
ACTION DAMASCUS INFO SECSTATE AUG 06.

QUOTE: S E C R E T SECTO 09014

EXDIS

FOR CHARGE FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SYRIA ON SITUATION IN NORTHERN LEBANON

REF: SECTO 09008

1. FYI. DURING SECRETARY'S TALKS TODAY IN ISRAEL, PM
BEGIN TOLD HIM GOI HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM VERY
RELIABLE SOURCES LAST NIGHT THAT THE SYRIANS ARE
PREPARING AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON CHRISTIANS BETWEEN
AUGUST 8-10. BEGIN ASKED SECRETARY TO MAKE AN APPROACH
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IN DAMASCUS NOT ONLY ON THIS SUBJECT BUT, AGAIN, TO TRY
TO ESTABLISH FIRM CEASEFIRE. SECRETARY PROMISED TO
SEND INSTRUCTION URGENTLY AND TO REPORT TO ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT ASAP. END FYI.

2. PLEASE MAKE APPROACH ON SECRETARY'S BEHALF ALONG
FOLLOWING LINES AT HIGHEST LEVEL YOU CAN REACH QUICKLY

WITH HOPES OF GETTING AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE:

-- SECRETARY AND OTHERS IN USG ARE WORKING ALL OUT TO REVERSE THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE HOUSE ON SYRIAN AID. REFER TO MY TESTIMONY AND INSTRUCTIONS PRESIDENT AND I HAVE GIVEN TO GET A CONGRESSIONAL REVERSAL. (SEE REFTEL)

-- WE ARE RECEIVING REPORTS FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT LARGE-SCALE MILITARY ACTION IN LEBANON IS PLANNED TO BEGIN IN PERIOD AUGUST 8-10.

-- WE WOULD APPRECIATE MOST SERIOUS SYRIAN APPRIASAL OF SUCH REPORTS AND ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD OF RENEWED ATTACKS BY ONE SIDE OR OTHER.

-- WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT CEASEFIRE IN BEIRUT IS NOT HOLDING FIRMLY. WE WOULD WELCOME SYRIAN VIEWS ON WHAT FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN DEFUSING FLASHPOINTS IN CITY.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT US AND SYRIA SHARE INTEREST IN PREVENTING NEW ROUND OF FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND THAT RENEWAL OF FIGHTING WOULD RAISE UNACCEPATBLE RISKS. WE APPROACH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT IN SPIRIT OF THIS INTEREST AND ASK THAT SYRIAN INFLUENCE BE USED TO THIS END.

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3. USE YOUR DISCRETION IN ADAPTING THESE POINTS IN LIGHT OF YOUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS TO ELICIT FULLEST RESPONSE POSSIBLE SO YOU CAN ASSESS SYRIAN INTENTION AND EXPECTATIONS.

VANCE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OCT: ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION SS-25/ISO,SSO,CCO.,

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